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CARMINARIUM LATINUM;

WHEREBY

ANY ONE OF *ORDINARY* CAPACITY,
THOUGH HE UNDERSTANDS *NOT ONE WORD* OF LATIN,
MAY BE TAUGHT *IMMEDIATELY*

TO MAKE

590,490

Hexameters and Pentameters,

TRUE LATIN, TRUE VERSE,

AND

GOOD SENSE.

STOURBRIDGE:
F. HEMING, PRINTER, 141 HIGH STREET.
1860.

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"OMNE TULIT PUNCTUM, QUI MISCUIT UTILE DULCI
LECTOREM DELECTANDO PARITERQUE MONENDO."

HORACE ARS. POET.

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Carminaviam Latinum.

I am indebted to that useful little periodical *Notes and Queries*, for the hint of the following trifle, the original *contriver* of which is unknown, though it most probably dates its existence from the Cloister, the fruitful hot-bed of all such pedantic effusions.

Martial has well observed :—

> Turpe est difficiles habere Nugas
> Et stultus labor est Ineptiarum

and although this may be in a great measure true, yet we cannot but admire ingenuity in whatever way it may display itself, and considering this production as an *undertaking* it may be, perhaps, of little value, but as a *Curiosity* it is undoubtedly worthy of preservation.

It will be obvious to every attentive observer, that the following Tables are constructed upon the basis of certain words, which, however they may be varied one with another, must, when formed into a sentence, not only make good sense, but also fall naturally into Hexameters and Pentameters, and the principal difficulty in forming them is in the choice of a set of words which have this peculiar property.

To the selection of these words, however, I lay *no claim*, but what I have here attempted is to so arrange the letters of which they are

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composed, in *Tables*, as to produce Elegiac Verses by counting in a series of *nines*, according to directions hereafter given, and for this arrangement I am alone responsible.

It appears that in the year 1677, one John Peters constructed a set of Tables (apparently in the same manner as these), and "to strengthen the Paradox" we are told, "he entitled the piece 'Artificial Versifying, whereby any one of ordinary capacity, though he understand not one word of Latin, may be taught immediately to make 590,490 Hexameters and Pentameters, true Latin, true Verse, and good Sense'." These Tables I have here reproduced, but not being the fortunate possessor of the Original, I have had recourse to my own *head* for their regeneration; I have also adopted John Peters' *Title* with the exception of the two first words, which I have (more appropriately) clothed in a Latin dress.

The Elegiacs which these Tables are capable of producing are, as Peters' asserts, 590,490! more than twelve times as many as are contained in the *Odyssey* of *Homer*, the *Metamorphosis* of *Ovid*, the *Satires* of *Juvenal* and *Persius*, and the whole writings of *Virgil* put together! If the whole of these Verses were printed in a book of octavo size, containing thirty lines in each page, they would fill *more* than thirty-nine volumes of 500 pages each, and if each leaf of these volumes were detached and fixed end to end, they would extend to a distance of thirteen thousand feet; each line being good Latin, good Verse, and containing a certain meaning, though perhaps its *good sense* may not always be very conspicuous.

My sole reason for bringing it before the Public is to rescue so ingenious a puzzle from the undeserved oblivion in which it has hitherto reposed, and to provide *innocent* and at the same time *useful* recreation for the curious.

Whether, however, it is worth the honour of reprinting, or the trouble I have bestowed upon it, I leave to its readers to decide.

Vos eritis judices
Laudin' an Vitio duci id factum oporteat.

H. S. G.

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MODUS OPERANDI.

IT will be observed that the 'Carminarium' contains eleven tables, six for Hexameters and five for Pentameters, the *first* table forming the *first* words of the verses, the *second* table the *second* words, and the third and following tables each succeeding word.

In order to produce a Hexameter or Pentameter line, choose any one of the nine letters in the *first* line of the *first* table, and having written that down, count nine more (beginning with the next letter to that you last wrote down) and write down the letter upon which the ninth count falls, and so proceed until the last count falls upon an asterisk, when the first word will be finished. For the second word enter into the second table, proceeding exactly in the same manner, and so on through each table until a complete line is formed.

Each table produces one word and each word, (to the number of *six* in Hexameters and *five* in Pentameters,) taken in consecutive order, forms a verse.

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HEXAMETERS.

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

HEXAMETERS.

TABLE I.

T	I	P	H	A	M	B	L	E

U	G	E	O	S	A	A	U	F	R	N	S
R	P	R	R	R	F	B	E	S	R	E	T
B	I	E	I	A	I	I	R	I	A	D	R
D	*	M	D	A	A	R	A	A	A	*	A
A	*	*	A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	C	L	H	O	A	C	A	A	R	*
T	M	H	I	I	N	N	S	U	A	M	G
R	E	I	S	U	T	F	M	A	C	T	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

HEXAMETERS.

TABLE II.

	F	S	D	B	V	S	C	S	T	
A	I	A	E	I	I	A	C	E	T	G	M
L	N	S	S	O	L	A	N	N	L	C	T
T	R	A	*	A	A	A	L	R	R	T	*
*	*	*	*	A	A	A	A	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	C	X	M	C	C	C
*	C	X	C	C	E	V	*	E	L	*	P
D	O	E	E	R	M	G	*	S	I	R	E
A	*	A	U	T	*	L	E	*	S	*	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

HEXAMETERS.

TABLE III.

	S	F	P	T	D	P	P	P	F		
E	O	A	U	O	A	U	A	E	Q	R	T
I	M	T	T	L	R	U	I	I	S	I	E
O	A	U	I	S	*	*	*	T	*	M	N
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	T	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	I	I	*	L	O
Y	*	*	H	T	N	T	N	N	E	L	P
*	O	T	E	N	I	*	T	V	B	*	E
R	A	N	R	O	T	*	S	E	*	*	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

HEXAMETERS.

TABLE IV.

	P	P	P	P	P	M	P	P	P		
R	R	R	R	R	O	R	R	R	A	O	O
O	O	N	O	A	O	E	R	M	T	D	S
G	E	M	M	I	I	E	U	T	I	N	U
O	T	T	N	C	R	G	A	L	N	A	T
D	U	A	N	R	G	S	N	U	U	N	B
E	R	A	T	T	N	N	T	U	N	A	N
R	*	T	T	*	N	T	N	T	A	*	*
*	*	T	*	T	*	N	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	T	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

HEXAMETERS.

TABLE V.

	T	P	P	V	L	F	A	C	S		
E	O	R	E	U	O	G	R	I	M	C	O
R	M	E	M	I	D	P	U	E	B	I	D
I	M	E	O	L	L	E	N	E	N	I	R
R	A	I	R	A	R	A	N	A	A	*	A
A	*	A	*	A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	N	E	*	I	E	*	*	*	*	E
S	*	N	R	*	*	*	*	C	S	*	I
O	*	*	*	*	S	E	F	T	S	*	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

HEXAMETERS.

TABLE VI.

D	S	Q	A	P	M	D	N	S

U	A	L	C	R	U	I	I	A	R	E	A
E	A	L	R	G	E	A	P	E	R	V	T
A	R	V	*	E	D	B	A	A	*	A	A
*	*	A	A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	M
*	*	F	R	O	U	T	N	*	A	*	N
U	G	N	U	I	E	D	*	T	U	A	O
*	*	N	U	G	*	S	U	T	M	*	N
*	*	*	O	Y	R	*	N	E	G	*	*

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PENTAMETERS.

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

PENTAMETERS.

TABLE I.

	T	A	P	I	S	I	T	T	N	
E	R	E	M	O	M	R	U	O	T	D	R
P	R	P	I	R	X	R	U	F	R	D	I
S	P	I	I	A	I	O	I	A	T	I	A
C	*	D	B	D	*	I	A	*	A	*	A
A	A	*	A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	N	H	E	S	C	*	S	I	G	*
N	R	I	A	T	*	E	S	S	E	B	*
F	R	O	E	O	*	R	K	O	*	S	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

PENTAMETERS.

TABLE II.

	P	P	C	P	P	C	C	S	P
R	R	O	R	E	O	O	I	R	Æ	Æ	N
Æ	R	N	N	G	O	S	S	C	D	F	S
G	N	C	T	C	L	I	I	U	L	l	U
A	R	U	C	C	M	O	F	R	B	I	D
U	I	M	M	I	A	U	B	U	N	U	A
E	C	N	N	U	N	T	N	N	R	A	T
T	N	T	*	T	T	A	N	*	*	T	*
*	*	*	N	T	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
T	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

PENTAMETERS.

TABLE III.

	D	A	V	V	D	F	L	A	A		
U	C	I	E	I	A	A	R	S	R	T	N
R	C	C	B	M	T	A	A	A	B	T	T
R	A	R	*	*	*	A	A	A	A	*	A
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	D	A	V
U	C	I	E	T	A	B	T	E	A	*	*
P	l	*	R	O	S	H	I	*	G	M	T
A	*	F	R	E	T	B	A	L	S	*	S
D	F	E	A	R	K	N	Y	L	*	E	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

PENTAMETERS.

TABLE IV.

	D	P	P	N	C	S	M	S	M		
O	U	R	E	R	U	O	I	A	L	D	O
F	U	P	L	N	L	O	E	T	A	E	E
E	I	I	S	N	E	N	N	R	S	S	G
A	D	R	D	T	B	T	T	N	*	A	V
A	A	A	A	R	A	*	*	A	*	*	*
*	A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	O
O	M	M	I	E	C	G	R	A	O	*	N
*	L	O	A	U	B	M	O	*	R	E	*

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CARMINARIUM LATINUM

PENTAMETERS.

TABLE V.

	N	A	T	V	S	M	M	V	M		
O	L	I	I	C	E	A	I	I	V	I	B
R	I	A	L	D	H	A	I	I	I	O	*
A	E	I	*	S	*	*	*	*	*	S	*
H	*	F	C	R	N	L	*	*	S	I	E
A	I	O	A	*	*	G	X	C	R	U	N
B	*	*	A	H	I	M	M	S	O	*	*
E	O	T	I	I	R	*	*	*	T	C	N
N	E	*	*	*	*	A	A	E	*	T	*

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